

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 02967 120358Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /098 W

-----121451Z 041188 /44

R 111449Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3944

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2967

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, US

SUBJ: ERITREAN REQUEST FOR DIALOGUE

REF: A. DAMASCUS 2943, B. STATE 100281, C. ADDIS ABABA 2792

1. AT RISK OF REPEATING OURSELVES, WE CAN ONLY EMPHASIZE AGAIN THAT FROM VANTAGE POINT THIS EMBASSY, OUR TAKING INITIATIVE WITH THIRD COUNTRY GOVTS TO STATE US POLICY ON ERITREA IN TERMS OF PARA 2 REFTEL B REPRESENTS UNHELPFUL DEPARTURE FROM OUR PREVIOUS POLICY POSTURE AND ONE WHICH COULD MAKE UNTENABLE WHAT IS LEFT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EPMG.

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2. WE HAVE ALWAYS MADE CLEAR IN PAST THAT WE VIEWED ERITREA SITUATION AS DOMESTIC PROBLEM FOR ETHIOPIA, AND OUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TOWARDS URGING ETHIOPIAN GOVT AND INSURGENTS TO ARRIVE AT NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SOLUTION. FOR US SUDDENLY TO BEGIN INFORMING THOSE VERY FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHICH FOR YEARS HAVE BEEN PROVIDING ELF-PLS WITH WEAPONS AND FINANCIAL

MEANS TO CARRY ON INSURGENCY THAT THIS IS "REGIONAL PROBLEM WHICH SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN REGIONAL CONTEXT" COULD BE INTERPRETED BOTH AS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT OTHER COUNTRIES IN REGION SHOULD INDEED HAVE VOICE IN DETERMINING OUTCOME OF DISPUTE AND AS RETREAT FROM OUR PAST SUPPORT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ALL AFRICAN STATES. THERE IS ALSO QUESTION OF RECONCILING OUR CHANGED POSITION BETWEEN INTERESTS OF ARAB WORLD IN ERITREA AND RED SEA ON ONE HAND AND ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES OF PROBLEM AS VIEWED FROM REST OF AFRICA. FINALLY, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT VALUE OF ANY INFO OBTAINED THROUGH DIALOGUE WITH ERITREANS WILL BE MARGINAL TO US NEEDS.

3. AGAIN WE RUGE INFO ADDRESSEES TO AWAIT INDICATION FROM DEPT AFTER REQUESTED RECONSIDERATION OF ARGUMENTS REFTE C, WHETHER INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL B STILL STAND. IF THEY DO, WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION FROM DEPT WHAT NEW FACTORS HAVE DICTATED CHANGE IN US POSTURE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ADDIS02967  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 DAMASCUS 2943, 77 STATE 100281, 77 ADDIS ABABA 2792  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2576945  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ERITREAN REQUEST FOR DIALOGUE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ET, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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